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Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Charleston SC

1017 AM EDT Fri Apr 24 2020

...UPDATE TO NWS DAMAGE SURVEY FOR APRIL 13, 2020 TORNADO
EVENT...

.Long Track Tornado in Hampton County, SC...Update to increase
rating to EF-4...

Start Location...3 WNW Scotia in Hampton County SC

End Location...5 NNE Fechtig in Hampton County SC

Date...04/13/2020

Estimated Time...06:10 AM EDT

Maximum EF-Scale Rating...EF4

Estimated Maximum Wind Speed...175 mph

Maximum Path Width...1300.0 yards

Path Length...24.03 miles

Beginning Lat/Lon...32.7045 / -81.2899

Ending Lat/Lon...32.829 / -80.9092

* Fatalities...5

* Injuries...60

...Summary...

Update for upgrade to EF-4 rating: Upon further review of data gathered during the damage survey, and consultation with subject matter experts, the Hampton County tornado has been upgraded to an EF-4. The most intense damage occurred along Lento Road where the roof and all of the exterior and interior walls of a two story home were removed and dispersed across the yard. This has been added to the survey summary below.

This unusually long track and wide tornado damaged and destroyed many residences, including mobile and single family homes. In addition, the tornado, which reached a maximum width of about 0.75 mile, caused extensive damage to trees and powerlines along its path, which stretched more than 24 miles from southwest of Estill, to near the Colleton County line. The most significant structural damage occurred just south of Estill and across Nixville. At least six residences were destroyed in the hardest hit areas, but there were many others that sustained various levels of damage along the entire path. The tornado strengthened shortly after crossing Highway 321 south of Estill with EF-2 to EF-3 damage done to residences along Sprayfield Road and Lena Expressway. The tornado reached peak intensity (EF-4) along Lento Road where the roof and all of the exterior and interior walls of a two story home were removed and dispersed across the yard. The tornado then began a weakening trend. Tragically, five people lost their lives in the hardest hit areas just south of Estill and in Nixville. The damage pattern suggested that this tornado may have consisted of multiple vortices, which can occur with stronger tornadoes.

EF Scale: The Enhanced Fujita Scale classifies tornadoes into the following categories:

EF0...Weak.....65 to 85 mph

EF1...Weak.....86 to 110 mph

EF2...Strong....111 to 135 mph

EF3...Strong....136 to 165 mph

EF4...Violent...166 to 200 mph

EF5...Violent...>200 mph

* The information in this statement is preliminary and subject to

change pending final review of the event and publication in NWS
Storm Data.

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